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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

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March 29, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – RITES OF
PASSAGE RESIDENTIAL CENTERS, INCORPORATED, SITE 1 AND
SITE 2 GROUP HOMES**

We have completed a review of Site1 and Site 2 Group Homes (Group Home or Agency) operated by Rites of Passage Residential Centers, Incorporated. Each Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

Site 1 and Site 2 Group Homes are each six-bed facilities, which provide care for boys ages 11-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Site 1 Group Home was providing services for four DCFS children. Site 2 Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children.

Rites of Passage Group Homes are located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

Both Group Homes need to include the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans, maintain sufficient documentation to show that children are provided with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, and encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Site 1 Group Home needs to clean or paint the hallway walls and office door; repair the hallway ceiling and the kitchen stove burner; and replace the molding around the bathroom door and repair or replace the entry door in bedroom two. Site 1 Group Home also needs to maintain documentation to show that children are provided with the required minimum weekly allowance.

Site 2 Group Home needs to replace window screens and the shower/tub wall; clean or paint walls throughout the house and clean the living room carpet; maintain current and comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long term goals and maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services; and maintain current authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. However, since the time of the review, the Agency has decided to close their Group Homes. Therefore, a corrective action plan was not completed. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:jdh

http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Turesi Faniel, Executive Director, Rites of Passage Residential Centers, Inc.
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Rites of Passage Residential Centers
Site 1 Group Home
1255 Wexham Way
Inglewood, California 90302
Telephone: 310.671.5651
License Number: 198200103
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Site 1 Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. The common quarters are neat. However, the hallway walls and door to the office are dirty. There is a crack in the hallway ceiling. The molding around the exterior of the bathroom door is cracked. Two of the kitchen stove burners do not work.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. However, there is a hole in the entry door in bedroom two. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Rites of Passage Residential Centers management:

- a. Clean or paint the hallway walls and door to the office.
- b. Repair the hallway ceiling.
- c. Replace the bathroom door molding.

- d. Repair the stove burners.
- e. Repair or replace the entry door in bedroom two.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development or implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The Needs and Services Plans are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Rites of Passage Residential Centers management include input from the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are currently no children taking psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing and items of necessity. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, there is not sufficient documentation to show that children are provided with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, there is not sufficient documentation to show that children are provided with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

3. Rites of Passage Residential Centers management:

- a.** Maintain sufficient documentation to show that children are provided with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.
- b.** Maintain sufficient documentation to show that children are provided with the required minimum weekly allowance.
- c.** Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

**Rites of Passage Residential Centers
Site 2 Group Home
1617 South Sycamore Street
Los Angeles, California 90019
Telephone: 323.937.0680
License Number: 197603490
Rate Classification Level: 10**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Site 2 Group Home is located in a residential community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. The common quarters are neat. However, the living room carpet and walls throughout the house are dirty. The shower/tub wall is discolored and worn. The window screens are worn.

Children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. Rites of Passage Residential Centers management:**
 - a. Clean the living room carpet.**
 - b. Clean or paint the walls throughout the house.**
 - c. Replace the shower/tub wall.**

- d. Replace the window screens as needed.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team and input from the child are not included in the development or implementation of the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs for one child are current, comprehensive, and include short and long term goals. However, the NSPs for the other child are not current.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. Rites of Passage Residential Centers management:

- a. Include input from the treatment team and the child in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- b. Maintain current Needs and Services Plans for all children.
- c. Develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that include short and long terms goals for all children.
- d. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school.

The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities. Children also participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist. However, the Group Home does not have a current court authorization for the psychotropic medication that one child is taking.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

3. Rites of Passage Residential Centers management maintain current court authorizations for all children taking psychotropic medication.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that the staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing and items of necessity. Children are provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. However, there is not sufficient documentation to show that children are provided with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum weekly allowance. Children spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are not encouraged or assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

4. Rites of Passage Residential Centers management:

- a. Maintain sufficient documentation to show that children are provided with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.**
- b. Encourage and assist children in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.**